

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 03625 071632Z

72

ACTION SS-30

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6324

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T GENEVA 3625

EXDIS

FROM MEPC DEL BUNKER

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR MEPC XF SO

SUBJ SOVIET AMBASSADOR STILL PRESSING FOR

EARLY RESUMPTION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE

1. I MADE FAREWELL CALL ON AMBASSADOR VINOGRADOV MORNING JUNE 6. HE CONTINUED ALONG SAME LINE HE HAS BEEN TALKING TO ME AT VARIOUS MEETINGS OVER THE PAST WEEK, INDEED OVER LAST MONTHS. HE SAID HE HAD HEARD ARAFAT MADE A BROADCAST SAYING HE IS PREPARED TO ATTEND THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IF SO INSTRUCTED BY THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL. VINOGRADOV THOUGHT THIS INTERESTING AND SAID IT POINTS TO THE URGENT NEED FOR U.S. AND SOVIETS TO SET A DATE WHEN CONFERENCE WILL BE RECONVENED.

2. VINOGRADOV TOOK LINE THAT U.S. AND USSR, AS CO-CHAIRMEN, SHOULD SIMPLY DECIDE ON DATE OR MONTH WHEN CONFERENCE WOULD BE RECONVENED AND ANNOUNCE IT. HE DID NOT THINK IT NECESSARY TO CONSULT WITH THE PARTIES ON THAT ASPECT. CONSULTATION COULD FOLLOW THE ANNOUNCEMENT, CONCENTRATING ON WORKING OUT PROCEDURES FOR THE CONFERENCE. HE MADE POINTS, SIMILAR TO GUYER'S (SEE GENEVA 3573), THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 GENEVA 03625 071632Z

PREPARE BEFOREHAND FOR NEXT CONVENING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

HERE. HE AND I, AND AMBASSADORS FROM THE COUNTRIES MOST CONCERNED, COULD MEET A COUPLE OF WEEKS AHEAD OF TIME, WORK OUT PROCEDURES, AND GO RIGHT INTO THE WORK IN SPECIFIC COMMITTEES OR WORKING GROUPS AS SOON AS THE MINISTERS LEFT AFTER RECONVENING THE CONFERENCE.

3. I TOLD HIM I WOULD BE GOING BACK TO WASHINGTON TOMORROW AND WOULD PASS A MESSAGE BACK TO HIM IF I HAD ANYTHING MORE TO TELL HIM. I ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD BE SEEING GROMYKO IN MOSCOW DURING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT THERE, AND THE TWO WOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION FURTHER.

4. ONCE THE PARTIES ARE ENGAGED IN DISCUSSIONS HERE, VINOGRADOV SAID, HE THOUGHT SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY TRANSFORMED. THE PARTIES WOULD BE DISCUSSING PEACE, NOT WAR. EVEN IF THEY WANTED INTERIM AGREEMENTS RATHER THAN GOING FOR A FINAL ONE, SUCH AGREEMENTS WOULD BECOME EASIER TO ACHIEVE WHILE CONFERENCE AIMED AT FINAL AGREEMENT WAS CONTINUING. HE THOUGHT TALKING PEACE IN GENEVA WOULD REALLY HELP IN MANY WAYS.

5. VINOGRADOV EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE HARD LINE RABIN TOOK IN HIS INAUGURAL SPEECH AS ISRAEL'S PRIME MINISTER. HE CITED ARTICLES IN BRITISH PRESS EXPRESSING SIMILAR CONCERN. I TOLD HIM OUR ESTIMATE HAS BEEN THAT RABIN MAY BE LESS DIFFICULT ON SETTLEMENT QUESTIONS THAN MRS MEIR. PERHAPS HIS REMARKS WERE PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION IN VIEW OF SLIM MAJORITY HIS GOVERNMENT POSSESSES. HE DID NOT DISPUTE THIS ESTIMATE OF RABIN, BUT WONDERED WHY RABIN BEGAN BY MAKING STATEMENTS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD HAD TO STEP BACK FROM THEM IN REACHING THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

6. DEPARTMENT REPEAT OTHER ADDRESSEES AS DESIRED. ABRAMS

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NNN

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